

NSC BRIEFING

NO CHANGE IN CLASS. TO
DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 14 May 1957
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE 1-16-80 REVIEWER: 372044

BACKGROUND: CHINESE COMMUNISTS CUT BACK EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- I. Economic strains have forced Peiping to cut back sharply admissions to Chinese universities in the coming year.
 - A. Urgent need for investment funds in industry has prevented regime from enlarging physical plant of universities this year.
 - B. 107,000 to be admitted this year (180,000 in '56, after steady rise from 60,000 in 1951).
- II. The Chinese first ran into serious trouble last year when they scheduled 180,000 admissions--almost twice that the previous year (96,000).
 - A. Classroom space proved seriously inadequate, dormitories were overcrowded, quality of instruction suffered from need to use inexperienced teachers.
 - B. With schools put on a two-shift basis, idle time for students gave rise ^{to} discipline problems.
 1. Press observed that students in overcrowded schools read comic books in class and rebelled against ideological studies.
- III. Students' disappointment is compounded by lack of job opportunities in the cities.
 - A. Students are being told to drop out and become the first generation of "modern and literate" peasants.
 - B. Such advice will bring serious morale problems to those who sought schooling to escape the rigors of rural life.

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NSC BRIEFING

14 May 1957

BACKGROUND: CHINA'S POPULATION PROBLEM

- I. The pressure of China's immense population upon the nation's limited resources is probably the nation's greatest long-range problem.
 - A. The census of 1953-54, China's first, showed a population on the mainland of 583 million.
 1. This figure, although about 100,000,000 above previous estimates, is believed to be essentially accurate.
 - B. By 1956 the population had reached 600,000,000.
- II. The rate of increase is estimated to have reached 10,000,000 a year; and will probably go up in the next few years.
 - A. The Chinese Communists, on the basis of a rather narrow sampling, state that the present rate of increase is about 2.2%, or over 13,000,000 per year.
 - B. At this rate the population would reach almost 800 million by 1968.
- III. After persisting for years in the view that the huge population was the greatest resource, Peiping now recognizes that the ~~constant~~ growth in population threatens fulfillment of its economic plan.
 - A. Birth control is now official party policy as a means of limiting birth rates.
 - B. Abortion and sterilization have been advocated by the health authorities.

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. 11
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